

Heather Ferguson

GPO Box 1252

Darwin NT 0801

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NT EPA

Bonaparte Consultation

Dear Sir/Madam,

**Re: Bonaparte Carbon Capture and Storage Submission**

Thank you for the opportunity to submit to this proposal regarding Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS). This pipeline forms part of the infrastructure to support a CCS project.

I have lived in the Territory for over 14 years and grown to love our wildlife, our lifestyle and the iconic geography of the NT. Unfortunately, I am seeing and experiencing detrimental changes that are impacting on our environment, our wildlife and our health.

Darwin has become noticeably hotter. In 2019, over 43 days were over 35°C and future projections predict that Darwin will be virtually unliveable for part of each year (Northern Territory Government). Heat impacts include increased death rates, heat-related hospital admissions, exacerbation of mental health conditions, violence and suicide (Northern Territory Government).

Burning of fossil fuels, is a major contributor to the rising CO<sub>2</sub> levels in our atmosphere that are driving temperature change. Mining, production and processing of gas results in massive CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, however CCS is not the most effective solution to reducing these. Only Scope 1 emissions can be impacted by CCS but Scope 2 and Scope 3 emissions are by far the major source of CO<sub>2</sub>.

CCS is proven to be a costly, unreliable, inefficient and marginally effective technology that can deal ONLY with the lesser percentage of Carbon Dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) that is released from the gas field or Scope 1 emissions (Morrison, 2024). Chevron's Gorgon CCS project is the largest in the world. It has continued to fail to meet target sequestration despite Millions in government tax payer funded subsidies and Billions of investment expense (Mercer, 2024).

The referral is silent on this actual effectiveness of CCS and its contribution to a low carbon society globally, which is likely to be insignificant. Hence the rationale for the project is largely irrelevant and the project should not proceed at all.

A far more effective and impactful solution to carbon reduction is to not mine the gas in the first place, reduce reliance on fossil fuels and accelerate investment in renewable energy sources, such as wind and solar.

**Darwin Harbour quality**

Dredging, clearing of erosion protecting mangroves, disturbance of acid soils and toxins, water quality and turbidity and other impacts on the harbour are all discussed in the Bonaparte

referral report. Around 100 pages of the referral are devoted to detailing the flora and fauna of the area to be dredged and pipeline laid. The proposal states that nine of the fourteen environmental issues identified by the NT EPA have the potential to be significantly impacted (Table ES-1). Remarkably, desktop self-assessment by the referrer indicates that NONE of these represent any risk or significance. In a referral of this importance, this assessment should be done by independent investigators to ensure the greatest application of rigour. It is possible that what the community considers is “significant” is quite different from the proponent’s view of what is significant.

### **Alternatives**

A far more effective and less costly solution to both our energy needs and impact on the environment, is rapid investment in renewable wind and solar energy. These, unlike gas, do not result in massive emissions, nor toxic by-products. Australia does not have a shortage of gas; it has a policy problem regarding supply and preservation of gas for citizens.

In summary, this process is not effective at scale, it only addresses Scope 1 emissions from gas production, it will itself be energy costly, it will cost Billions (subsidised) to create over many years and ultimately will be too little too late to have any impact on our climate. The project should not go ahead.

Yours Sincerely,

Heather Ferguson

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